

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action dated May 5, 2009 and the Advisory Action dated July 14, 2009. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-19 are pending in the Application. Claims 5 and 20 are canceled herein, without prejudice. The Applicants respectfully reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein, either at a later time during the prosecution of this application or any continuing applications.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended during a telephone conference call between Examiner Alexander and Gregory L. Thorne, attorney for the Applicants, wherein Examiner Alexander indicated that should any additional matters need be addressed to get the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner would contact Gregory L. Thorne to avoid a need for additional fees related to getting the application in condition for allowance.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication provided in the Advisory Action that claims 5, 10-12 and 18-20 contain allowable subject matter and that claims 13-16 are allowed.

Applicants have elected to amend claim 1 to include the subject matter indicated as allowable in claim 5. Further, Applicants have elected to amend claim 10 to be in independent form. Lastly, Applicants have elected to amend claim 17 to include the subject matter indicated as allowable in claim 20.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10 and 17 are allowable and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-12 and 18-19 respectively depend from one of claims 1, 10 and 17 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the

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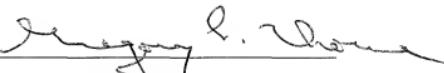
Serial No. 10/561,453

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of May 5, 2009
and the Advisory Action of July 14, 2009

presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. 39,398
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101